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## Blue Ridge Getaway

### Rileysville, Virginia

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**Virginia Green** is the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) initiative to promote pollution prevention (P2) practices in all aspects of the tourism and hospitality industry. **Virginia Green Lodging** is focused on the P2 opportunities within hotels, resorts, and other hospitality operations to be aware of their impact on the environment and to take steps to reduce these impacts. **Virginia Green** is a non-regulatory program, and participation is completely voluntary and free of charge.

### Blue Ridge Getaway

The Blue Ridge Getaway is perched high atop the Blue Ridge Mountains in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The brand new cabin has three bedrooms and two and a half baths, and it is located less than 100 yards from the Shenandoah National Park.



### Why did the Blue Ridge Getaway “go green”?

*Because I would like to leave the earth better than I found it!*

### CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Lodging

“☑” This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Lodging facilities. Virginia Green participants *self-certify* that these activities are in place, and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to the Blue Ridge Getaway can expect the following *green practices*:

☑ **Optional Linen Service.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must have some sort of system in place that allows guests to not have their sheets and towels changed every day.

- House cleaners are trained on process of optional linen service
- Purchased water-/energy-efficient washers and dryers ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov))
- Use non-phosphate, non-toxic, and biodegradable laundry detergents
- We minimize the use of bleach and chlorinated chemicals whenever possible
- Use linen service providers that employ “wet” versus dry cleaning.

☑ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must provide guests the opportunity to recycle during their stay. Recycling should be highly visible to guests with clear signage. Participants are encouraged to have a comprehensive recycling program, subject to market availability, etc.

- Everything possible! Glass, Aluminum Cans, Steel Cans, Grease, Plastic Bottles, Office Paper, Toner Cartridges, Newspapers, Cardboard, Packing Supplies, Fluorescent Lamps, Batteries, and Electronics.
- Composting of excess food!
- Tracking overall waste bills
- We have bulk soap dispensers
- Fill up shampoo bottles
- Instruct housekeeping to save and reuse unopened items
- Eliminated use of Styrofoam products
- Use dishware and glassware instead of disposables
- Disposables are from bio-based materials with recycled content and are compostable
- Non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- Condiments and cream and sugar in bulk

- Purchase recycled-content toilet paper and paper towels
- Purchasing from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Electronic correspondence and forms
- 2-sided copying and printing
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Using “green” cleaners that are dispensed in bulk
- High-efficiency hand-dryers
- Purchase of “low-VOC” carpets and fabrics
- Latex paints
- Reuse of paint thinners and proper disposal of residuals
- Preventative maintenance of all appliances, HVAC, plumbing, and vehicles
- Minimized use of pesticides and herbicides

☒ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping.

- We’re tracking overall water usage and wastewater bills
- Preventative maintenance of drips and leaks
- Water-flow metering to discover leaks and areas of high use
- High efficiency dishwashers
- Use dry clean up methods over water-based methods
- Microfiber technology mops
- Low flow toilets and low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads
- Effective landscape management plan which utilizes drought tolerant species, metering, and ran gauges, and minimizes lawn areas.
- Cisterns and drip-line irrigation
- Rain barrels
- Effective stormwater management
- Minimization of impervious areas
- Vegetative buffers around streams and ponds



☒ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives.

- Tracking overall energy bills and set a numeric goal to reduce
- Using a pollution calculator to factor pollution caused by energy usage
- Using high efficiency compact fluorescent light bulbs in rooms and spotlights
- High efficiency heating & air conditioning
- Ceiling fans
- Extensive use of natural lighting
- Purchase EnergyStar computers and appliances
- Thermal-rated windows and insulation
- Purchased fuel-efficient vehicles.

☒ **Green Events Package.** The facility must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided.

- *We don’t host events, but recycling and other waste reducing activities are always in place!*

For more information on Blue Ridge Getaway, see [http://www.mountain-lodging.com/blue\\_ridge\\_getaway.htm](http://www.mountain-lodging.com/blue_ridge_getaway.htm)

or contact Jerry Heiston at [Jheison@hotmail.com](mailto:Jheison@hotmail.com) or 540-860-1925.

For more information on *Virginia Green Lodging* program, [www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen) or go to [www.viriniagreentravel.org](http://www.viriniagreentravel.org).



Virginia Green is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

